

Introduction

What Every Driver Must Know contains information about operating a motor vehicle safely on Michigan roads. Although this publication includes information about many Michigan traffic laws, it is not meant as a legal document or as a substitute for the Michigan Vehicle Code. Information in this publication is subject to change.

The Michigan Department of State Information Center telephone number and other helpful resources are printed on the back cover.

Please remember that driving is a privilege and not a right. Drivers must drive responsibly and safely, obey traffic laws, and never drink and drive. Finally, buckle up and make sure all passengers do too. It is the law!

Before you read further, consider these facts about driving in Michigan. In 2004:

- 373,028 motor vehicle crashes were reported. Deaths numbered 1,159 and 99,680 people were injured.
- Twenty-six percent of all fatal traffic crashes occurred at an intersection.
- Alcohol was involved in 338 fatal crashes.
- Four out of five accidental deaths for young people ages 15-24 were due to motor vehicle crashes.
- Motor vehicle crashes remained the number one cause of accidental death for young children, far outpacing the next two most frequent causes: fires and drowning.
- Nearly 29.3 percent of all pedestrian fatalities occurred when crossing streets other than at intersections.
- Excessive speed was a factor in 12.4 percent of fatal crashes.

2004 Michigan Traffic Crash Data—Michigan Department of State Police/Office of Highway Safety Planning

